

REMINISCENCES

AUDUBON IN DUXBURY

In about 1848 the great ornithologist visited our town. He was on a tour largely in the interest of his books. Arriving in Plymouth he was the guest of a Mr. Russell, who gave a reception for the distinguished visitor. The "Great Book" with a price of \$100, and a small book at \$25, were discreetly on display, offering the guests an opportunity to purchase by direct sale

The plan (?) of the tour was that the prominent host of the town introduced the visitor to an influential citizen of the next likely community. So, in accord with this system, Mr. Russell drove Audubon to Duxbury, introducing him to the Rev. Josiah Moore, the pastor of the First Parish Church. Arriving somewhat before noon he was invited to dine. This was in the house now owned by Captain and Mrs. Charles Bittinger.

In the afternoon, the guest was driving to meet several important citizens. It happened that one, Dr. Porter, was not at home, but Mrs. Porter received the visitor graciously with the suggestion that he call upon Daniel Webster in Marshfield. To this, Audubon exclaimed that he would not call upon him...that he had not paid for a "Great Book".

Reaching the fertile literary fields of Boston, he relented and called at the statesman's office. Mr. Webster was astonished to learn that he had not paid for the book and made amends by purchasing another and giving a payment of \$200. And further he gave Audubon a letter to a friend in Worcester and another in Springfield....worth probably more than the price of the two books.

Gershom Bradford

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